

Message Text

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ACTION CU-04

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 USIA-15 /030 W

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P 271034Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY DACCA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5023

UNCLAS DACCA 5446

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS : OEXC, BG (MONI, SHEIKH FAZLUL HAQUE)

SUBJECT : IV NOMINATION - JUSTIFICATION

REF : DEPARTMENT A-8585, OCTOBER 12, 1973

MISSION OFFERED IVP INITIATION TO SHEIKH MONI, INFLUENTIAL PUBLISHER OF BANGLADESH TIMES, FOR U.S. VISIT IN 1972 BUT HE WAS UNABLE TO UNDERTAKE TRIP DUE TO, AS HE NOTED, HIS PREOCCUPATION WITH COUNTRY'S AFFAIRS WHICH INVOLVED CLOSE WORKING RELATIONSHIP WITH HIS UNCLE -PM SHEIKH MUJIBUR RAHMAN. NOW MONI HAS BEEN GIVEN THREE WEEKS ABSENCE FROM COUNTRY AND DESIRES TO COMPLETE US TOUR BEFORE END DECEMBER, WHEN IMPORTANT SESSIONS OF AWAMI LEAGUE BEGIN. MISSION WISHES TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY AND AWARD FULL IV GRANT SUBJECT TO DEPARTMENT'S APPROVAL. DANIEL NEWBERRY, DIRECTOR CU/NEA, KNOWS THE CANDIDATE AND CIRCUMSTANCES WELL.

MISSION REALIZES THIS IS SHORT NOTICE AND PRE-CHRISTMAS DISTRACTIONS WILL MAKE SCHEDULING DIFFICULT, BUT WE FEEL IMPORTANCE OF CANDIDATE MAKES IT WORTHWHILE TO SEEK POSSIBLE PROGRAM FOR MONI AT THIS TIME WHEN HE IS SURE OF BEING FREE. HE PREFERS LIMIT HIS ENGAGEMENTS TO WASHDC, NEW YORK, CHICAGO, SAN FRANCISCO AND HONOLULU AND WE SUGGEST MODERATE RATHER THAN INTENSIVE PROGRAMMING; HE WANTS TO MEET WITH DEPARTMENT AND AID OFFICIALS FOR SOUTH ASIA; WOULD LIKE TO MEET MEMBERS AT THE EDITORIAL LEVEL OF THE WASHINGTON POST AND NYTIMES; VISIT THE NATIONAL PRESS CLUB, MEET AN IMPORTANT SENATOR, PERHAPS SEN. KENNEDY; AND VISIT THE UN. HE WOULD ALSO BE INTERESTED IN SEEING AN OFF-BROADWAY PLAY AND WANTS TO VISIT EAST-WEST CENTER WHEN IN HAWAII. HIS IMPORTANCE MERITS SOME HIGH-LEVEL CONTACTS. SHEIKH MONI FEELS HE MUST

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TANCE MERITS SOME HIGH-LEVEL CONTACTS. SHEIKH MONI FEELS HE MUST

RETURN BY DECEMBER 25 TO ATTEND SESSIONS OF CENTRAL WORKING COMMITTEE OF AWAMI LEAGUE (RULING PARTY) WHICH WILL LIKELY MAKE IMPORTANT DECISIONS AT THAT TIME.

HIS PART 1, NOMINATION-JUSTIFICATION FOLLOWS:

1. NAME: SHEIKH FAZLUL HAQUE MONI
2. SIGNIFICANT POSITIONS: PRESENT -(A) EDITOR, THE BANGLADESH TIMES, AN ENGLISH DAILY (B) EDITOR, THE BANGLAR BANI (BENGALI DAILY) (C) CHAIRMAN, PRESIDUM OF AWAMI YOUTH LEAGUE (D) MEMBER, CENTRAL WORKING COMMITTEE OF AWAMI LEAGUE (A RULING PARTY), (E) PRESIDENT, TEJGAON INDUSTRIAL WORKER'S LEAGUE. PAST (A) SECRETARY-GENERAL, EAST PAKISTAN STUDENTS' LEAGUE (B) COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF, BANGLADESH FREEDOM FIGHTER'S FORCE.
3. PERSONAL DATA: COB: DECEMBER 4, 1939; PLACE: TONGIPARA, FARIDPUR; BENGALIEE; NO OTHER PREVIOUS CITIZENSHIP.
4. TRAVEL ABROAD: TO U.S. - NONE; OTHER COUNTRIES: NORTH VIETNAM, BURMA (1973) TO ATTEND YOUTH DELEGATION; USSR (1972) TO REPRESENT BANGLADESH IN WORLD YOUTH FEDERATION; (GDR 1972, 1973) AS LEADER OF 86 MEMBER BANGLADESH TEAM AT WORLD YOUTH FESTIVAL; LONDON (1972) ON PRIVATE VISIT TO SEE AILING UNCLE - PM SHEIKH MUJIBUR RAHMAN; FRG (1972) ON GERMAN GOVT'S INVITATION TO EDITORS.
5. PREVIOUS US GOVT. GRANT: NONE
6. ESCORT INTERPRETER NOT NEEDED: HOWEVER ESCORT WHO IS FAMILIAR WITH BANGLADESH SETTING COULD MATERIALLY ADD TO MEANINGFUL VISIT AND HELP MAKE BEST USE OF SHORT VISIT.
7. IS ELIGIBLE FOR VISA.
8. REASON FOR NOMINATION: MONI CURRENTLY IMPORTANT FIGURE IN BANGLADESH JOURNALISM AND HIS PRESENT POLITICAL STANDING INSURES HIS FUTURE PROMISE FOR AN INFLUENTIAL ROLE IN HIS COUNTRY'S GOVERNMENT.
9. POST OBJECTIVES OF U.S. VISIT: -SHEIKH MONI KNOWS VERY LITTLE ABOUT THE UNITED STATES AND HIS NEWSPAPER REFLECTS THIS LACK OF UNDERSTANDING ALMOST DAILY. THIS VISIT SHOULD PROVIDE A NEW PERSPECTIVE AND A BALANCE TO HIS OUTLOOK, HOPEFULLY GIVING HIM AN UNDERSTANDING OF U.S. INSTITUTIONS, FOREIGN POLICY STANCES AND CUSTOMS WHICH MAY THEN BE REFLECTED IN HIS JOURNAL.
10. ETA WASHDC, DECEMBER 5, VIA PAA 101 FROM LONDON. GRANT TERM ROUND THE WORLD TRAVEL WITH STOPOVER HONOLULU FOR UNCLASSIFIED

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TOTAL TRAVEL PERIOD 21 DAYS, PERDIEM \$40 PER DAY.

11. HIS PART 2, DETAILED BIODATA FOR PROGRAMMING WILL FOLLOW AS SOON AS TRAVEL AUTHORIZATION DATA RECEIVED.
 12. DUE SHORTNESS OF TIME, IF DECEMBER VISIT POSSIBLE, EMBASSY REQUESTS EARLIEST ANSWER.
- BOSTER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 NOV 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974DACCA05446
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740345-0546
From: DACCA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t1974119/aaaaagww.tel
Line Count: 113
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION CU
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: DEPARTMENT A-8585, OCTOBER 12, 1973
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: kelleyw0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 11 SEP 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <11 SEP 2002 by chicheje>; APPROVED <13 FEB 2003 by kelleyw0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: : IV NOMINATION - JUSTIFICATION
TAGS: OEXC, BG, (MONI, SHEIKH FAZLUL HAQUE)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005